



MEETING MINUTES / 16 MAY 2017

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Farley, Armbruster, Baldwin, Bradley, Hampton, Lardizzone, Magner, Sarg, Seppala, and Smith
71.2%

Absences: Showell, McMullen, Newman, Newstadt

Guests: Bob Callahan (Wilmington VAMC), Kim Butler (Wilmington VAMC), Carlos Robinson (Wilmington VAMC), Toni Neal (Wilmington VAMC), Paula Wicher (First State Women), Dave Skocik (Friends of Delaware Veterans), Vivian Starnes (DAV Auxiliary), Liz Byers-Jiron (Delaware Stand Down), Freddie Allen (Veterans Center), Gloria Smith, and Jack Tillman

HOST REMARKS:

Major General Carol Timmons, Adjutant General, Delaware National Guard
Complimented the commission for their work with state Veterans and the Delaware National Guard
Introduced the guard's Command Sergeant Major and Command Chief Master Sergeant
Provided condolences for the loss of Commissioner Coons

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Acknowledged losing Commissioner Coons (KWVA)
Introduced new Commissioner Magner (MOPH)

MEETING MINUTES:

Approved, motions: Lardizzone and Sarg

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Wilmington VAMC – Bob Callahan, Interim Director

The center's new director is Vince Kane
Introduced interim operation's director, Kim Butler
- Interviewing candidates for operation's director position
Georgetown CBOC will be opening late summer
- Working infrastructure issues
Dover CBOC will be expanding, taking over the entire building
- Will have increased specialty care
(Sarg) Is tele-health connected at Delaware Veterans Home?
Will research the status
The center is working potential dental services at Delaware Veterans Home
The call center is fully staffed
- 24/7 nurse line is available
- Improved communication with providers

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Bill Peterson, Director:

Not present

Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:

Not present

DOL – Veteran Employment and Training Service, State Director, Dave Rich,

Not present

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Liz Byers-Jiron, Delaware Stand Down

Donations are needed for the stand down

Informed DHSS about Give Vets a Smile Program in hopes of greater exposure

Paula Witcher, Veterans Multi-Service Center

Veterans' claims clinic is scheduled for 7 June / 1000 at the Biden Readiness Center

- Claims filing and interaction with Veteran agencies will be available

Dave Skocik, Delaware Veterans Coalition

Will continue to publicize Veteran information through the local media

Vietnam Veterans of America Memorial Day Ceremony 29 May / 1400 Kent County Park, Guest Speaker, General Timmons

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Armbruster:

Interments – 68

POW/MIA Chair of Honor – tentatively Saturday, 20 May / 1000

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:

Interments - 35

Flag Day Ceremony Wednesday, 14 June / 1000

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:

Currently 110 Delaware Veterans Home residents

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:

(Sarg) House Bill 112 allowing state licensing/commissions to recognize military education, training, and experience. This expands previous legislation to include military retirees and Veterans.

Commemorative Affairs, Commissioner Hampton:

Bear Cemetery Memorial Day, Saturday, 27 May / 1030

Bridge Memorial Day, Tuesday, 30 May / 1030

Millsboro Cemetery Flag Day, 14 June / 1000

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (AFSA)

Not present

Commissioner Armbruster (AL)

Boys State activities 11 – 15 June

- Mornings at Legislative Hall

- Afternoons, evenings training and speakers

Departmental Convention is 12 – 14 July, Dover Downs

Commissioner Bradley (AMVETS)
DVTF Beef and Beer event was cancelled but donations are still being accepted
Departmental Convention 17 June
National Convention 5 – 12 August, Norfolk VA

Commissioner Smith (DELVETS)
Provided invocation for 20 May POW/MIA ceremony

Commissioner Lardizzone (DAV)
Attended Veterans Service Officer meeting on 11 May
Departmental Convention 19 -20 May, banquet 20 May

Commissioner Coons (KWVA)
No representative

Commissioner Farley (MCL)
Departmental Convention was 13 May, proposed annual DVTF donation

Commissioner Sarg (MOAA)
Addressed University of Delaware ROTC cadets, discussed leadership
Presented leadership medals to two JROTC cadets
Scholarship banquet 20 May

Commissioner Magner (MOPH)
Presented gifts during Wilmington VAMC patient carnival on 6 May
Visited ROTC and JROTC cadets
Departmental Convention was 13 May
Participating in Newark parade on 20 May
- POW/MIA chair ceremony dedication
National Purple Heart Day, Mt Vernon VA, 7 August

Commissioner Seppala (MOWW)
Our Community Salutes (enlistee recognition) is 16 May
Departmental Change of Command, officiated by National Commander is 6 June
Presented awards to 18 ROTC units

Commissioner Newman (VFW)
Not present, notes provided to Executive Director
Departmental Convention 9 -10 June
State Commander will attend Newark and Wilmington Memorial Day Parades

Commissioner Baldwin (VVA)
Presented three schools with JROTC awards
Invited to guard (ceremonially) Vietnam Veterans Wall during Rolling Thunder event 27 May
Attending Navy Memorial for Memorial Day service 29 May

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large)
Not present

Commissioner Showell (At Large)
Not present

Commissioner Hampton (At Large)

Will provide information on proposed Kent County Park Golf Tournament

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

DVTF: Requests 7, Granted 6 (85.7%), Awarded \$7168.09 and Balance \$49,407.00

Commissioner Coons Chapel Service – Friday, 19 May / 1400 Bear Cemetery

Commissioner Coons Celebration of Life – Saturday, 20 May / 1500, Delaware Airpark

Commissioner Coons Donations to: Dr. Daniel Coons Endowment Scholarship, mail to Dr. Daniel Coons Endowment Scholarship / Delaware State University Foundation, 1200 N. DuPont Highway, Dover DE 19901

Veteran Student Representative Meeting Tuesday, 23 May / 1230 DCVA Conference Room

Kent County Veteran Service Officer resigned, due to hiring freeze unable to advertise position until after 1 July

New Castle County Veteran Service Officer work at the Wilmington VA Benefits Office on Wednesdays

Executive Director will be absent for June's meeting

Introduced Toni Bush Neal, Relationship Manager, Veterans Experience Team (DE, PA, S. NJ)

TERM EXPIRATION:

Armbruster 14 June 2017

Farley 14 June 2017

Sarg 14 June 2017

Seppala 14 June 2017

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

World War I Memorial (OPEN)

- Proposed unveiling date 10 November

May Meeting with Lt Gen Timmons (CLOSED)

August Meeting at American Veterans' Post 22 (OPEN)

- Vote taken / approved to hold 15 August meeting at American Veterans' post

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

Director Kirby stated the large screen has been installed in the conference room and are awaiting a new conference room table. Meeting information will be presented via power point, shown on the screen

Commissioner Baldwin will release a book on his experiences and leadership in July

SPECIAL SESSION:

None

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 20 June 2017 at 10:00 AM

LOCATION: Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs